

SECRETDPD-1571-62
16 March 1962

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**SUBJECT : National Reconnaissance Office**

1. At a meeting today convened by Colonel Beerli with Messrs. Cunningham, Parangosky, Kiefer, [] and McMahon for the purpose of identifying the present status of the NRO, it was highlighted that Dr. Charyk, and the USAF in general, were launching the NRO into actions which did not necessarily contain the imprimatur of the Agency. It was also pointed out that Dr. Charyk has assumed the position of Director, NRO. To complete the sketchy information which was presently available to DPD on the NRO, Colonel Beerli called [] who had been assigned by Dr. Scoville to do certain work concerning the NRO.

2. [] reported that back in December 1961, following a conversation with Dr. Charyk regarding the NRO, Mr. McCone wrote a memorandum for the file which, in essence, stated his agreement with Dr. Charyk on the advisability of a single head for the NRO and not the co-directorship of Charyk/DDP as agreed upon in the 6 September 1961 memorandum regarding the management of the National Reconnaissance Program. [] also reported that the Director was impressed with the competence of Dr. Charyk and felt that Dr. Charyk should be named as Director, NRO.

3. Circa 17 January 1962, a memorandum was forwarded to the Director from DOD, presumably Mr. McNamara or Mr. Gilpatric, recommending that Dr. Charyk be named as Director, NRO. According to [] this same memorandum outlined the missions and functions of the NRO and in effect granted CIA only the responsibility for security and black procurement. Upon learning of this memorandum Dr. Scoville requested [] to analyze the NRO situation and to prepare for Dr. Scoville's signature a memorandum to the Director which would ^{request} CIA a stronger seat at the table of responsibilities of the NRO. The outcome of [] investigation was a memorandum forwarded to the Director which stated that the only way the NRO should function would be through a co-directorship as stated in the original

NRO review(s) completed.

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agreement signed by General Cabell and Mr. Gilpatric. The memorandum took exception to several DOD desires and suggested the prime responsibility and authority for certain projects will rest with one or the other of the co-directors. To date there is no knowledge of the Director's reaction to this memorandum.

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4. [] has also prepared an additional memorandum for Dr. Scoville's signature to the Director which comments upon the Director's memorandum for the file regarding Dr. Charyk's designation as single head of the NRO. This second memorandum cautions the Director against establishing an organization based upon a single individual; and, although it concedes that Dr. Charyk may be a benevolent Director of the NRO as far as the Agency is concerned, there is no guarantee that Dr. Charyk will continue to infinity in this post and that a replacement may not be disposed to the Agency as Dr. Charyk may now be. Dr. Scoville has not forwarded this memorandum to the Director as of this writing.

SIGNED

JOHN N. McMAHON
Executive Officer, DPD-DD/R

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